

Speaker and author Kay Redfield Jamison, Ph.D. (right) at book signing for **An Unquiet Mind** and **Night Falls Fast: Understanding Suicide**.



Elsie and Jerry Weyrauch, co-founders of SPAN/USA and the Atlanta-based Survivors of Suicide Support Team are pictured with grammy winning artist CeCe Winans at the opening dinner for survivors of suicide attempts.



Developing Suicide Prevention Strategies.



Gwen Hamer, who coordinated the efforts of the Departments of Health and Mental Health and Mental Retardation, in bringing the conference together, received an award from SPAN/TN.

CeCe Winans talks with conference attendees.



Addressing Neurobiology of Suicide: Implications for Prevention and Treatment was Ghanshyam Pandey, Ph.D. psychopharmacologist and professor, Department of Psychiatry, College of Medicine, University of Chicago.



Vicki Yates, Channel 5 News in Nashville, was moderator of the Luncheon Session.



Joseph Autry, III, M.D., acting deputy administrator, SAMHSA, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services spoke on Substance Abuse and Suicide.



Neurobiology and the Risk for Suicidal Behavior was addressed by John Mann, M.D., professor of psychiatry at Columbia University and Chair of Neuroscience, New York, N.Y.



HHS DECA and Jason Foundation meet the Surgeon General-Hendersonville High School DECA chose the Jason Foundation as recipient of its Civic Consciousness Project. The goal is to create awareness, educate and raise funds to be used in preventing teen suicide. Pictured (from left) Dan McClunkin, Casey Wall, Michelle Ray, Satcher, Clark Flatt (Founder and CEO of the Jason Foundation) and Michael Barnes.

George Haley, president of the Mental Health Planning Council, confers with Dr. Fredia Wadley, commissioner of the Department of Health.



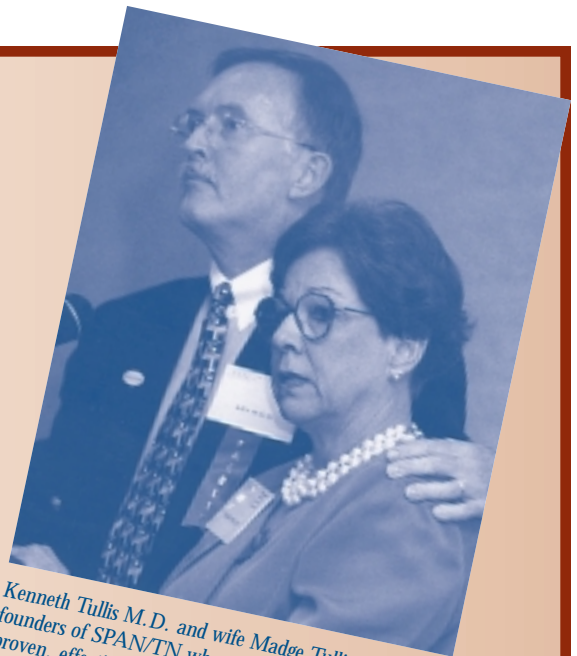
Dr. David Satcher is flanked by Conference Moderator Dr. Judy Regan (Left) and DMHMR's Director of Public Information Martha Robinson who provided his introduction.



Virginia Trotter Betts, M.S.N., J.D., R.N., F.A.A.N., senior advisor on Nursing and Policy to the U.S. Secretary and Assistant Secretary of Health, talked about Accepting the Public Sector's Responsibility for the National Strategy.



Yolanda Shields, executive director of Sharing the Vision, Nashville was a Teen Suicide Panelist.



Kenneth Tullis M.D. and wife Madge Tullis—founders of SPAN/TN whose mission is to create a proven, effective, statewide Tennessee Suicide Prevention Strategy—were key leaders in bringing about the conference.



DMHMR Commissioner Elisabeth Rukeyser presents award to Surgeon General Dr. David Satcher.

Tennessee Suicide Prevention Conference Attracts 600

Nearly 600 people attended the Tennessee Suicide Prevention Conference in October in Nashville. The conference was modeled after the National Suicide Prevention Conference in Reno, Nevada, which produced the original draft of the National Suicide Prevention Strategy.

Suicide is the eighth leading cause of death in the United States and is increasing for young persons, African American young men, and adults over 65. Suicide attempts are estimated to exceed 750,000 annually with 95 percent of those who commit or attempt suicide having a diagnosed mental illness. Families of those who commit suicide create a population of over 4 million mourners in this country.

A toll free hotline 1-888-SUICIDE is staffed by more than 1,000 volunteers .